

REMARKS

Claims 18-21 and 25-27 have been canceled. Claims 1-3, 5, 7-8, 10, 12-17, 22-24 and 28-29 have been amended. Claims 30-33 have been added. Claims 1-3, 5, 7-8, 10, 12-17, 22-24 and 28-33 remain for further consideration. No new matter has been added.

The objections and rejections shall be taken up in the order presented in the Official Action.

1-2. Claims 18, 22-23 and 25 currently stand rejected for allegedly being anticipated by the subject matter disclosed in U.S. Patent 6,031,241 to Watanabe (hereinafter "Watanabe").

Claims 18 and 25 have been cancelled. Claim 22 has been amended to now depend from new claim 30, which represents claim 19 that has been indicated to be allowed if rewritten to no longer depend from a rejected base claim.

3. The indication that claims 1-3, 5, 7-8, 10 and 12-17 are allowed is noted and appreciated.

4. The indication that claims 19, 21, 26-28 and 29 would be allowable if rewritten to no longer depend from a rejected base claims is noted and appreciated.

Claim 19 has been rewritten as new independent claim 30. Claim 21 has been rewritten as new independent claim 31. Claim 26 has been rewritten as new independent claim 32. Claim 27 has been rewritten as new independent claim 33. In each of these claims the term "said" has been replaced by "the".

For all the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-3, 5, 7-8, 10, 12-17, 22-24 and 28-33 is respectfully requested.

If a telephone interview could assist in the prosecution of this application, please call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



Patrick J. O'Shea
Reg. No. 35,305
O'Shea, Getz & Kosakowski, P.C.
1500 Main Street
Springfield, MA 01115
(413) 731-3100, Ext. 102